

THE CITY OF
PASADENA

PASADENA IN FOCUS

Affordable Housing Becomes Reality

TO SOME PEOPLE, the term "affordable housing" invokes an image of projects for down-and-outers. They couldn't be more wrong. The fact is that a majority of residents in Pasadena may qualify for affordable housing under federal guidelines.

If Pasadena is to remain a vital and diverse community, culturally and economically, it is critical that affordable housing opportunities are available for all income levels of the population. But if affordable housing does not exist, people may decide to live elsewhere, taking with them their skills and other potential contributions to the community. One of Pasadena's goals in addressing this dilemma is to expand affordable housing opportunities throughout the city.

The Pasadena Community Development Commission established a five-year goal in 1989 to produce a total of 315 new affordable housing units throughout Pasadena, and to rehabilitate 330 existing units. Working with developers, property

owners and community organizations, the city is committed to helping the commission meet that goal.

The provision of assistance and incentives is an important element in making affordable housing a reality. The commission typically assists in the development and rehabilitation of affordable housing by providing financial assistance to developers and property owners. When such assistance is provided, the commission requires that the housing units remain affordable for a specified period. Residential rehabilitation loans with favorable terms are also available to property owners from Pasadena Neighborhood Housing Services, a local non-profit housing organization. Incentives provided to developers of affordable housing include density bonuses and exemptions from the city's Growth Management Initiative Ordinance. As a result, attractive new residences are being added to the community, neighborhoods are being upgraded, and affordable housing is gradually becoming a reality in Pasadena.

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Affordable Housing

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Affordable housing projects that have been completed within the last six months include Centennial Place (134 single-room occupancy units); Woodbury Senior Housing (12 rehabilitated units); and Sunset-Mountain Townhomes (four family-ownership units). Many other projects are in the commission's pipeline.

How can the city afford to assist these projects? Funding comes from a variety of sources. The state of California requires the commission to set aside at least 20 percent of its redevelopment tax revenues, which goes to the Housing Trust Fund; a portion of Community Development Block Grant funds are set aside every year to fund property rehabilitation efforts; and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides rent subsidies through the Section 8 program, and residential improvement loans through the Rental Rehabilitation Program.

In addition, HUD recently selected Pasadena for its Public/Private Partnership Program to Create Affordable Housing. For the next three years the National Development Council will work with city staff, local bankers, developers and non-

profit organizations to create a cooperative partnership that will identify and generate affordable housing projects in Pasadena.

Once a project is completed, it is marketed by the developer to the community through newspaper ads, on-site signage and announcements sent through the mail. An application and eligibility process follows.

Very low, low and moderate income households, earning up to \$52,000 per year for a household of four, may be eligible if they meet certain criteria. For example, to purchase a commission-assisted housing unit that qualifies as being affordable, they must be first-time homebuyers, the household size must be within a certain range, and they must have adequate assets to make a downpayment. Renters must meet eligibility requirements as well.

Affordable housing is an idea whose time has come, thanks to developers, property owners and community organizations who share the city's goal. For more information about affordable housing or to have your name placed on a mailing list of prospective buyers or renters, call (818) 405-3700.

Need a Ride?

PASADENA'S Dial-A-Ride program is coming up roses. Mayflower Contract Services is addressing existing challenges. Newly painted vans are white with a green stripe and red rose. Dial-A-Ride taxi service has already been eliminated; other changes, recommended by three city commissions along with special consultants, are in the works but will not be implemented before September. 6,800 Dial-A-Ride users—a 50% increase over the last four years—will receive regular updates on the changes. For more information call (818) 405-4094.

I Scream, You Scream...

EACH YEAR during the warm summer months, dozens of ice-cream push carts make the rounds in Pasadena's residential areas. A city ordinance prohibits all manual push carts in Pasadena. The Health Dept. advises residents that food from these carts may not be from approved food manufacturing sources. In addition, products are often thawed and refrozen several times before being sold, possibly breeding enormous amounts of bacteria. If you spot a push cart in your neighborhood, call the Police Dept. at (818) 405-4550.

July Earthquake Preparedness Tip

Emergency Food

FOLLOWING A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE, some areas may be isolated and left to their own resources for 72 hours or longer. Keep two types of emergency food available:

(1) A 72-hour supply of "carry-out" foods that can be placed in a back-pack. For example, powdered milk, honey and peanut butter to blend into a spread, graham crackers, dried apricots and powdered orange drink to mix with water. Very basic, very boring, but adequate to sustain a family.

(2) A two-week food supply that can be prepared for your family with a minimum of time, equipment, heat and water. Choose foods that can be easily incorporated into your regular food supply and have a shelf life of six months or longer. Store food in a cool, dark, dry place and rotate to ensure freshness.

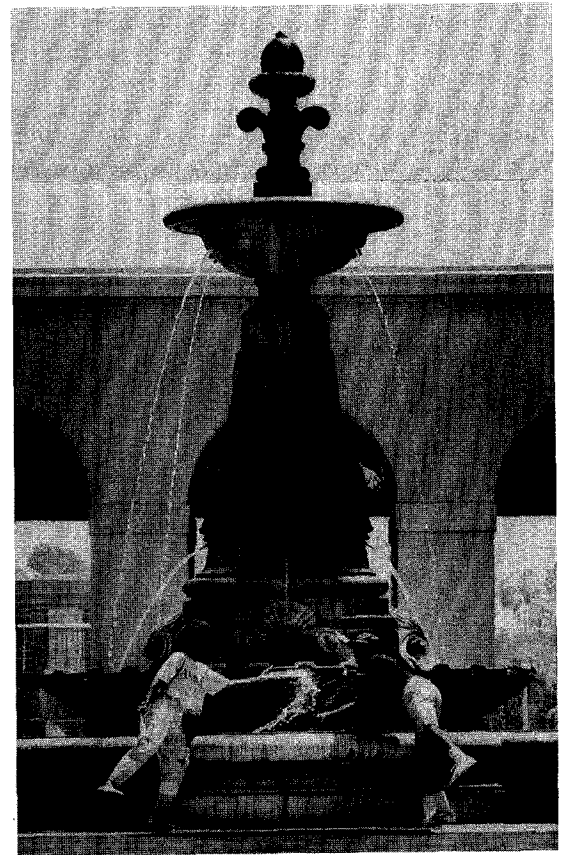
For more information or a guideline for putting together a well balanced, two-week emergency food supply, call (818) 405-4006.

Water in City Hall's courtyard fountain is flowing again after residents, visitors and even the media expressed concern that this vital part of Pasadena's cultural heritage had become silent. Although the water is perpetually recycled, the fountain was turned off several months ago as a goodwill gesture by the city during the water shortage. However, the gesture merely created a wave of sentiment for a return to the courtyard's famous ambience. To support its water conservation efforts as well as conform to original architectural plans, the city has removed grass from the courtyard and replaced it with finely crushed granite.

Photo: Walt Mancini, Star-News

Every Minute Counts

IF YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD relies on a life support system, the Water and Power Department would like to know. The department is updating its list of Pasadena utility customers who use life support systems in their homes. In case of a utility outage, the list helps ensure a fast response by police, paramedics or other emergency crews. Call (818) 405-4496 to have your name added to the list.



The Arroyo Revitalized

IN THE 1940s, most of the Arroyo Seco's streambed was channelized in concrete from the Devil's Gate area to the ocean to prevent flood damage. Consequently, the lack of water has greatly disturbed the ecological balance of the area. Many people who have visited the Arroyo Seco have expressed concern that open fields surrounding the concrete channel are dry and barren most of the time because water from the channel cannot feed the surrounding habitat. (The hillsides remain a little greener because of runoff from storm drains and irrigation.)

Over time, as tree cover in the fields has receded, its place has been taken by invasive non-native grasses, poison oak, sumac and other species that thrive in ecologically disturbed areas. Gophers and rabbits are now the dominant animals where songbirds and raccoons once thrived. Ecologically, the fields now contrast sharply with the species diversity in the one remaining segment of unlined streambed just north of the Colorado Street Bridge. Alternatives have been discussed for years, many of which looked good "on paper," but for financial or liability reasons none were enacted.

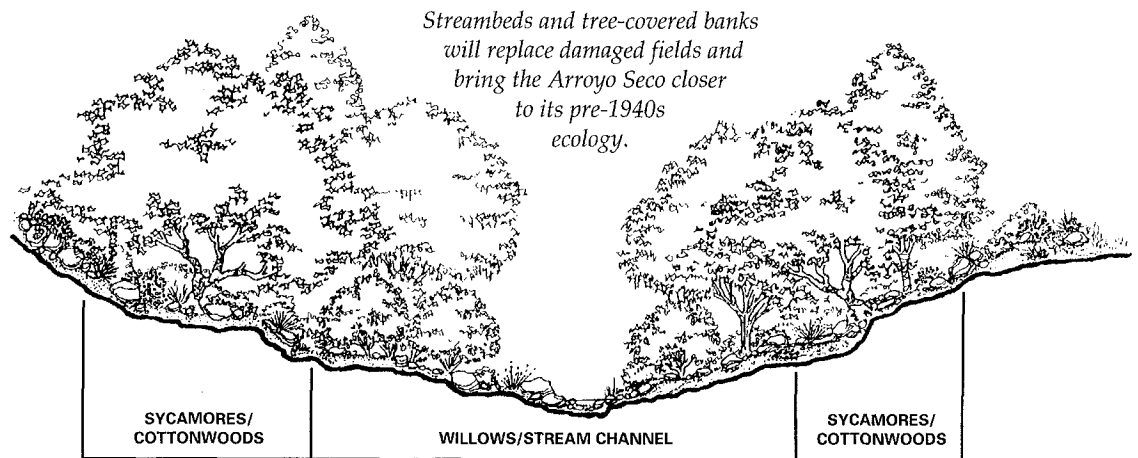
Last month, the City Council approved a funding arrangement for a stream restoration proposal.

It will revitalize the ecology of the arroyo by creating several intertwining streams, using water diverted from the channel, that will eventually bring the Arroyo Seco environment closer to its original state. Under the terms of the proposal, Browning Ferris Industries of California (BFI) will fund the entire project.

As part of the design process, which was recently begun, issues of community interest will be addressed during public meetings at La Casita del Arroyo.

Once construction begins, sights and sounds of the project will be hard to miss: Heavy equipment will be a common sight for several months, as well as the noise it will bring; holes will be dug for mixing and compacting soil, which is currently very sandy; existing trails will be left open whenever possible, but part of the area may be fenced off at times for public safety; and existing grasses and small shrubs, most of which are not native, will be removed so native plants and trees can take their place in open fields and be supported by water from the new streambeds.

For more information on the project, brochures on trails in the Arroyo Seco, or dates and times of public meetings, call (818) 577-3191.



Conservation Update

The Use of Gray Water

AFTER RESIDENTS have used standard conservation measures, gray water can be a valuable source of nondrinking water. Gray water taken from sources inside the house can account for 20 to 40 gallons per person per day.

Gray water is used water from washing machines, bathtubs, showers, bathroom and kitchen sinks and dishwashers. Consequently, gray water should be handled with care even though it is less hazardous than sewage. It may contain some infectious bacteria and viruses. It should not include laundry water from soiled diapers or water used by any person who has an infectious disease.

Gray water can be safely used to irrigate the following in areas that will not be contacted by children: fruit trees, ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers and groundcover. In addition, toilets will automatically flush if you empty two gallons of gray water into the bowl.

Crime Prevention Tip

TO DEFACE, DESTROY OR DAMAGE any public or private property is a crime! The city is working diligently with neighborhood groups and other community leaders to make Pasadena graffiti-free, but this ambitious project can only succeed with the help of all residents.

When you see someone defacing property by graffiti or any other method, call the Police Department at (818) 405-4501. If you spot graffiti in your neighborhood, call the 24-hour graffiti hotline at (818) 794-9045.

Working together, we can win the graffiti war!

Gray water can be distributed by simple methods such as using a bucket or hose, but we recommend you contact a professional plumber if you modify drain lines. To irrigate plants higher than a building's drain lines, you need a small sump pump. In this case, and whenever you modify plumbing, you must contact the Health Dept. at (818) 405-4390 to verify that piping is properly installed and to determine if a backflow prevention device is necessary. The city has the right to remove plumbing devices or fixtures if they pose a public health hazard or possible cause of contamination of the water supply.

Save Water!

DROUGHT EDUCATION OFFICERS from the Water and Power Dept. identify water waste problems in Pasadena and work with residents to help them change old water-wasting habits. Here are some "red flags" that drought education officers look for:

- ✧ Plumbing or irrigation leaks
- ✧ Landscape plantings that are watered between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- ✧ Water running onto driveways or other paved areas
- ✧ Water left running while vehicles are being washed
- ✧ Watering sidewalks, driveways or other paved areas instead of sweeping
- ✧ Draining and refilling swimming pools
- ✧ Filling or maintaining levels of decorative fountains and ponds that are not equipped with a water recycling system

For more information on gray water or conservation, call the Water Conservation Hotline at (818) 584-WATER.

Etcetera...

- **Free summer concerts** continue every Tuesday at 6 p.m. in Memorial Park, Walnut at Raymond. July 2 (to be announced); July 9 Rob Kyle Jazz Band; July 16 (to be announced); July 23 PCC Community Band; July 30 Phantom Hollow Bluegrass Band. (818) 795-4331.
 - **Free noontime concerts** at Plaza las Fuentes, Los Robles between Walnut and Union, have been postponed. They begin July 3 with the Pasadena Pops and continue every Tuesday. (818) 794-1114.
 - **AmericaFest celebration** July 4 at the Rose Bowl will be an old-fashioned, family event. (818) 578-1989. Tickets available through TicketMaster.
 - **Nominations are open** for Human Relations Commission awards, presented in October, honoring volunteer, professional or organizational contributions to improved human relations in Pasadena. (818) 796-6926.
 - **Wheelchair Sports Program**, for ages 8 to 18 with physical disabilities, includes tennis and basketball. (818) 797-1114.
 - **Northwest Commission** has changed its meeting time to the first and third Wed. of every month from 7 to 9 p.m. at Jackie Robinson Center. (818) 405-3731.
 - **"Your Property in a Starring Role"** is a brochure about renting your house or other property to the film industry. Call the city's Film Liaison Office at (818) 405-4152.
 - **"Visions of the Arroyo"** is a photo exhibit featuring the Arroyo Seco from several vantage points. Currently at the central library, it will travel to branch libraries in Pasadena throughout the year. (818) 405-4069. Photos by Tavo Olmos, Positive Image.
 - **Jet Propulsion Laboratory** is establishing a mailing list to update residents on environmental cleanup effort and community involvement. If you want to be included, call (818) 354-0112.
- Note:** All dates and times listed in "In Focus" are as of the publication date. Please call numbers listed to confirm information.

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